

## MEETING NOTES

**NAME OF GROUP:** Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission

**DATE, TIME AND**

**PLACE OF MEETING:** Thursday, February 22, 2001, 7:30 a.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 555 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

**MEMBERS AND OTHERS**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** **Members:** Gary Rex, Jeff Searcy, and Karen Kilgarin

**Others:** David Hedges, Jim Brown and Jerry Rauch (Scottish Rite); Jerry Shorney (Parks & Rec); Bob Ripley (NCEC Staff); Larry Hennings (LPS); Gary Bredehoft (Olsson Associates); Jennifer Dam, Ed Zimmer and Missy Minner (Planning Dept.)

**STATED PURPOSE**

**OF THE MEETING:** Regular Meeting of the Nebraska Capitol Environs

**Modifications to Scottish Rite Temple, 332 Centennial Mall South** - Zimmer indicated that the windows consist of a large central unit with large side lights. The window suppliers have indicated that the glass in the side lights will remain the same size or be slightly larger. The frames will remain, the insert will be replaced. The inside of the frame has about 5 inches of plaster. He suggested that clear glass be used with a lighter buff color frame that matches the limestone on the building.

Rex liked the idea of keeping the frames and having the color compliment the building. He also liked the idea of clear glass in the windows.

Searcy asked the life expectancy of the enhancements. Rauch indicated that this should last forever. Zimmer stated that the piece they are replacing is the weakest part of the window system.

Searcy asked that color samples be given to Zimmer to in turn be shared with the other members. Since formal action requires a quorum, Zimmer should contact the applicant to let them know the time line for action.

**Environs area plan for Lincoln High School campus** - Hennings explained their intent to make a cul-de-sac for student pick up and drop off and bus turn around. The cul-de-sac would open up and continue down J Street.

Rex wanted to know the number of parking spaces being lost.

Hennings indicated that they are not losing that many spaces because they will also be adding spaces. Hopefully, when the two new schools are built, the parking problems will be alleviated.

Ripley liked the additional green space in front of Lincoln High. He is concerned that this may or may not happen. He would like to figure out a way to physically do what is proposed in this plan.

Zimmer indicated that the Commission could make a suggestion about linking the pieces of the plan

together.

Hennings indicated that this plan has been discussed with Public Works. They support it, but it will have to go through the School Board and the City Council.

Commission members present asked Planning staff to work on the language of the recommendation which would encourage the implementation of the plan as it was presented.

**LB704, an act relating to the boundaries of the Capitol Environs District** - Ripley indicated that he had spoken with Hunter and Laging who were both in favor of this. There will be a hearing on this tomorrow, so the Committee's statement needs to be presented today. The University plans to appear in support of the bill. The Preservation Association plans to have someone present to testify at the hearing. The neighborhood has also indicated its support. To his knowledge this is either a neutral issue or people are in favor of it.

**Possibility of Changing Meeting Time** - Kilgarin asked about the possibility of changing the meeting time. She supports the actions of the Commission, but it is not possible for her to be here at 7:30 due to child care arrangements.

Commission members present asked Zimmer to poll members about other meeting times. Since there is a problem getting a quorum perhaps now is the time to consider other meeting times.

Zimmer offered that the Urban Design Committee meets at 3:00 p.m. once per month. That is not too bad of a time in that it allows enough time to meet and falls within normal office hours which are 8:00 - 4:30. If the Commission considers something outside those hours, there may be some concerns from Planning Administration because it would involve overtime for staff.

**Annual Report** - Zimmer indicated that he would convert the memo of last year's activities and forecast activities to a final report format.

**Miscellaneous** - Shorney indicated that Parks have some questions about how to proceed with maintenance of the fountains on the Mall.

Commission members present felt that the primary consideration should be to protect the City from liability. They felt that people would notice that the fountains were no longer there if they were filled and planted with grass. That might get people upset enough to make people do something about the Mall.

Searcy indicated that it is appropriate for a subcommittee to address the Parks issue. It is in the best interests of the Commission to handle this in a cautious and professional manner. He suggested Gary, Kim and a third Commission member be the subcommittee.